

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) A device for inserting sheets into an envelope, comprising:
a holding device having a main surface for supporting the envelope during insertion of the sheets into the envelope;
transport members for feeding the sheets to be inserted to the holding device;
a feed device for feeding the envelope to the holding device along a feed direction; and
a removal device for removing the filled envelope from the holding device along a removal direction; wherein
the main surface of the holding device has a fixed orientation relative to the feed device and to the removal device and maintains the same fixed orientation during feeding and removing of the envelope respectively in the feed and removal directions, the feed device and the removal device being arranged relative to the main surface of the holding device to define a first angle between the feed direction and the main surface of the holding device and a second angle between the removal direction and the main surface of the holding device, the first and second angles being different from each other.
2. (Previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the removal device is arranged relative to the holding device in such a manner that the main surface of the holding device is permanently parallel to the removal direction.
3. (Previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 2, wherein the feed device comprises a guide element with a discharge point, the guide element being convex at its discharge point.
4. (Previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 3, wherein the guide element is formed by a curved guide plate with a vacuum device.
5. (Currently amended) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the holding ~~element~~ device is formed by a pocket onto which the envelope can be pulled.

6. (Previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the removal device comprises a first conveying device with a first, lower pressing roll and a second, upper pressing roll, the second pressing roll being pressed resiliently against the first pressing roll.

7. (Previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 6, wherein the feed device is arranged below the removal device, and in that the feed device comprises a second conveying device with an upper pressing roll and a lower pressing roll, the first pressing roll of the first conveying device at the same time forming the upper pressing roll of the second conveying device.

8. (Previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a safeguard for the envelope, for preventing a premature removal of the envelope from the holding device.

9. (Previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the removal device comprises a take-off roll with a segment for grasping the filled envelope which is to be removed.

10. (Previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein all of the transport elements for the envelopes are driven by a single motor.

11. (Previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the feed device has a segment roll for pulling the envelope off from a stack, with a rolling segment for fully pressing open a flap of the envelope, and a transport segment for transporting the envelope.

12. (Previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the segment roll is designed in such a manner that a first coefficient of friction of a surface of the rolling segment is smaller than a second coefficient of friction of a surface of the transport segment.

13. (Previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 11, wherein the rolling segment

and the transport segment are formed by claws which are arranged on a common rotational axle.

14. (Withdrawn) A device for opening an envelope flap with a blowing unit (301), the blowing unit (301) being arranged in such a manner that it can blow a focused volumetric flow of air under the envelope flap.

15. (Withdrawn) The device as claimed in claim 14, the blowing unit (301) comprising a nozzle (303) with a nozzle duct, the nozzle duct having a long-drawn-out shape with a length which corresponds essentially to the maximum length of the envelope flap, and the nozzle duct being arranged essentially parallel to the envelope flap.

16. (Withdrawn) A device for the continuous feeding of stacks of envelopes, which device can lift the stacks of envelopes in a stacking region along a straight path (103), with a first lift (110), which can be displaced along a section of the straight path (103), and a second lift (116), which can be displaced along the section of the straight path (103), it being possible for both lifts (110, 116) to be displaced independently of each other along an entire length of the section of the straight path (103), and it being possible for the second lift (116) to be completely moved away from the stacking region.

17. (Withdrawn) The device as claimed in claim 16, characterized in that the first lift (110) and the second lift (116) are designed in such a manner that they can extend in a comb-like manner through each other.

18. (Withdrawn) The device as claimed in claim 16, characterized in that the second lift (116) is mounted in a manner such that it can move along an essentially oval path.

19. (Withdrawn) A method for inserting sheets into an envelope, having the following steps:

- a) feeding the envelope along a feed direction;
- b) bending a front part of the envelope, so that the front part is aligned with a

holding device (11);

- c) pulling the envelope onto the holding device (11), the envelope returning elastically into an original, flat form;
- d) inserting the sheets into the envelope;
- e) removing the filled envelope from the holding device (11), along a removal direction parallel to a main surface of the holding device (11).

20. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 19, characterized in that, for the bending, the front part of the envelope is sucked by means of negative pressure onto a convex surface (9).

21. (Withdrawn) The method as claimed in claim 19, characterized in that, for the feeding, the envelope is pulled off from a stack, with a flap of the envelope first of all being fully pressed open and the envelope then being grasped and transported.

22. (Withdrawn) A method for opening an envelope flap, with a focused volumetric flow of air being blown under the envelope flap.

23. (Withdrawn) A method for the continuous feeding of stacks of envelopes, having the following steps:

- a) receiving a first stack of envelopes by a first lift (110) in a receiving position,
- b) lifting the first stack of envelopes by the first lift (110),
- c) taking over the first stack of envelopes by a second lift (116) in a transfer position,
- d) moving of the first lift (110) back into the receiving position,
- e) receiving a second stack of envelopes by the first lift (110),
- f) lifting the second stack of envelopes by the first lift (110),
- g) moving the second lift (116) into the transfer position,
- h) taking over the second stack of envelopes by the second lift (116).

24. (Previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 12, wherein the rolling segment and the transport segment are formed by claws which are arranged on a common rotational axle.
25. (Previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the transport members are configured to feed the sheets in a sheet transport direction parallel to the main surface of the holding device.
26. (Previously presented) The device as claimed in claim 1, wherein the transport members are configured to push the filled envelope in the removal direction by acting on the sheets.
27. (Previously presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the holding device is non-pivoting.